

# Life in a Canyon

## by Carletta Tilousi



A life-long advocate for the protection of the Grand Canyon, Carletta Tilousi has worked for more than twenty years promoting social and environmental justice for the Havasupai Indian Tribe and indigenous people of the Grand Canyon. Born and raised in Supai Village located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Ms. Tilousi and the Tribe have fought against the development of uranium mines on federal lands within the watershed of Supai Village and next to the Tribe's sacred site *Wii Giidwissa*. Tribal members, including Ms. Tilousi, and Tribe have also been engaged in a protracted legal dispute with Arizona State University (ASU) over alleged improper human subject research conducted by the University officials against the Havasupai people.

After earning a degree in Justice Studies from ASU, Ms. Tilousi returned to Supai Village, and was eventually elected to serve two terms on the Havasupai Tribal Council. Supai Village is world-renowned for its dramatic and picturesque blue-green waterfalls, which are threatened by the uranium mines, and other man-made causes. While serving on the Tribal Council, Ms. Tilousi confronted the major issues of the day by improving the legal and financial infrastructure of the Tribe to provide a better method to address societal and environmental threats.

Ms. Tilousi has also served as a cultural ambassador for the Havasupai people by presenting their environmental and justice issues to the world. Ms. Tilousi served as a United Nations delegate at the "Earth Summit" in Rio De Jenerio, Brazil, and presented the Havasupai uranium case at the World Uranium Hearings in Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Tilousi also assisted the defeat of a proposed nuclear waste dump in Switzerland, which had direct ties to proposed mining activities in the Grand Canyon. Currently, Ms. Tilousi serves as President of **Red Rock Foundation, Inc.**, a Native American non-profit organization, which focuses on education and environmental issues affecting tribes.

"The work I do is for the future children of the Grand Canyon, and for all my ancestors who endured the hardships of life in a remote canyon, I am honored to tell our story".